(a) whether it is a fact that a CBI team has recently visited Dubai;

(b) if so, name and ranks of the officials and their purpose to visit Dubai;

(c) whether they got success in their task during the visit;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether it is also a fact that Dubai police has refused to hand over Niranjan Shah to India; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) S/Shri P. C. Sharma, JD, Mahesh Prakash, LA, S.S. Jha, Dy. SP. They explained the case against Niranjan Shah and a request for his deportation was made.

(c) to (g) The matter is still under consideration of UAE authorities. However, as a result of the visit the detention of Niranjan Shah has been extended. The matter is being constantly persued with UAE authorities.

Indian Pilgrims Denied Visa to visit Pakistan

1075. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item published in the Hindustan Times dated the 18th April, 1993 captioned "Pak denied visas" to a group of 206 pilgrims wanted to visit Sikh shrines in Pakistan on the occasion of 'Baisakhi' even after the last minute visa entries had been made on the passports of the intended pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up this matter with Government of Pakistan so as to avoid such refusals in future, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) to (c) Government's attention was drawn to the denial of visas by the Pak High Commission in Delhi to some of the yatris desirous of visiting Pakistan on the occasion of Baisakhi on 13th April, 1993.

Government have taken up with Government of Pakistan through the diplomatic channels the specific instances of such denial of visas to the yatris.

Claims of Indian Nationals who come back from Kuwait

1076. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is being done in the matter of Indian nationals who have left their money and other property to Kuwait and have come back to India during the Gulf war; and

(b) how many persons have registered their claims with the UN Commission and what is the total amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) The Ministry of External Affairs

is assisting the repatriates affected by the Gulf crisis in 1990 in submitting their claims in the proper form to the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC).

(b) More than 84500 claims for approximately US $ 905 million have been submitted to the UNCC so far. Remaining claims which are found to be in the proper form will also be submitted to the UNCC.

Exports Licences to Pakistan issued by US

1077. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Government have recently issued export licences totalling more than U.S. $ 100 millions to Pakistan for buying spare parts for F-16 Fighter Planes and Cobra attack Helicopters;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Government have seen reports that since October, 1990 and upto mid-1992, U.S. State Department had issued export licences totalling more than U.S. $ 100 million including spare parts for F-16 fighter planes and Cobra attack helicopters.

(c) Our concerns about any arms sales to Pakistan disproportionate to Pakistan's legitimate defence needs have been conveyed to all concerned including U.S. Government.

Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

Waiving of Visa Fees for Religious Leaders

1078. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to waive visa fees for religious leader like Baddhist members visiting India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would consider granting visa facility to people of Indian origin visiting India for worship of their family dieties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Government have taken a decision that if a Buddhist monk from Thailand is granted a visa to visit India no visa fee would be charged.

(c) People of Indian origin, wishing to visit India, are already granted visas in accordance with the normal rules and procedures.

Dawood Extradiction

1079. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi on April 10, 1993 under the caption "Pak working to stop Dawood Extradiction";

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with Pakistan Government in this regard ?